

NBR Hall of Fame



The **NBR Hall of Fame** also known as **Nigerian Books of Record (NBR) Hall of Fame** is a prestigious institution dedicated to honoring and preserving the extraordinary achievements of Nigerians who have made significant contributions to the nation's development and global recognition and has been documented in the Nigerian Books of Record. Established as a comprehensive repository of Nigeria's most remarkable milestones, the NBR Hall of Fame celebrates individuals whose work has shaped the country's intellectual, cultural, economic, and social landscape. The initiative aims to inspire future generations, promote national pride, and ensure the legacies of Nigeria's heroes are immortalized.

The NBR Hall of Fame was founded by Professor David Obongekong David. It is powered and managed by Nigerian Books of Record. The Hall of Fame was created to formally induct icons who have successfully entered the NBR in a grand ceremony.

History



The NBR Hall of Fame, founded by Professor David Obongekong David, was inaugurated in 2011, exactly 24 hours after the official launch of the Nigerian Books

of Record, when the first class of members was unveiled. The Nigerian Books of Record established the Hall of Fame to celebrate and archive Nigeria's remarkable achievements in the NBR Hall of Fame Digital Museum across various fields, including literature, science, business, public service, and activism.

The NBR Hall of Fame was established as a key component of the Nigerian Books of Record's mission. But beyond documenting excellent records, the NBR Hall of Fame was created to exhibit, display and archive the milestone of individuals who have demonstrated exceptional impact, innovation, and leadership in the NBR Hall of Fame Museum.

The official induction ceremony takes place as organized by the NBR supreme council, making it a tradition to openly honor Nigeria's most influential figures before an organized assembly.

The NBR Hall of Fame distinguishes itself by focusing on the diverse contributions of Nigerians across all sectors. By celebrating a broad spectrum of achievements, the NBR Hall of Fame has become a symbol of Nigeria's resilience, creativity, and global influence.

Mission and Purpose

The NBR Hall of Fame's mission is threefold:

1. **National Pride:** To showcase Nigeria's intellectual, cultural, and creative prowess to the world.
2. **Inspiration:** To motivate young Nigerians to pursue excellence and contribute meaningfully to society.
3. **Legacy Preservation:** To document and preserve the stories and achievements of Nigeria's most impactful figures for future generations.

By recognizing individuals who have shaped Nigeria's history, the NBR Hall of Fame aims to foster a sense of unity and pride while encouraging innovation and leadership among the nation's youth.

Eligibility Criteria

The NBR nomination council selects inductees based on rigorous eligibility criteria, ensuring that only those with exceptional contributions are honored. The criteria include:

1. **National Impact:** The individual's work must have significantly contributed to Nigeria's growth, development, or international recognition.
2. **Excellence and Innovation:** The individual must have demonstrated outstanding skill, creativity, or leadership in their field, setting them apart

from their peers.

3. **Legacy and Inspiration:** The individual's achievements must have inspired others, leaving a lasting legacy that motivates future generations.

Nominees are evaluated through a meticulous verification process to ensure their contributions meet the NBR's high standards. The council considers individuals from diverse fields, including literature, economics, science, technology, business, public service, and activism.

Induction Process

The induction process for the NBR Hall of Fame is a carefully structured procedure designed to maintain transparency and integrity:

1. **Nomination:** The NBR nomination council identifies and nominates candidates based on their alignment with the eligibility criteria. Nominations are not open to the public and are strictly handled by the council.
2. **Verification:** The council conducts a thorough review of each nominee's credentials, achievements, and impact to ensure compliance with NBR standards.
3. **Selection:** A panel of experts selects the inductees, ensuring a diverse representation of fields and contributions.
4. **Induction Ceremony:** Inductees are formally honored at an open ceremony, where their achievements are celebrated through citations, speeches, tributes, and multimedia presentations.

The induction ceremony is a high-profile event attended by dignitaries, industry leaders, and the public, broadcasted nationally to amplify the recognition of the inductees.

Categories of Recognition

To reflect the diversity of Nigerian contributions, the NBR Hall of Fame recognizes individuals in several categories, including but not limited to:

- **Arts and Culture:** For contributions to **Literature, Music, Visual Arts, Culinary Arts and Crafts**, celebrating creativity and cultural enrichment.
- **Science and Technology:** For groundbreaking innovations and advancements in **Natural Sciences, Applied Sciences, Engineering, Medical Sciences, Mathematics, Environmental Science, and Research** that push the boundaries of knowledge and improve lives.

- **Business and Economics:** For transformative leadership and impact in **Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Management, Marketing and Advertising, Trade, Industry, and Economic Development.**
- **Health and Well-being:** For achievements in **Healthcare, Fitness and Sports, Nutrition, Mental Health, and Public Health** that promote physical and mental wellness at individual and community levels.
- **Spirituality and Religion:** For meaningful work in **Theology, Spiritual Leadership, and Community Building** that fosters moral development, peace, and social cohesion.
- **Exploration and Adventure:** For courageous endeavors in **Space Exploration, Astronomy, Geographic Exploration, and Adventure Sports**, inspiring curiosity and pushing the limits of human experience.
- **Communication and Media:** For excellence in **Journalism, Publishing, Social Media, and Public Speaking**, advancing truth, information access, and public engagement.
- **Community and Social Services:** For outstanding dedication to **Social Work, Charity and Philanthropy, and Activism**, driving social change and uplifting marginalized communities.
- **Leadership and Government:** For visionary leadership and impactful governance at local, national, or international levels, demonstrating integrity, accountability, and dedication to public good and sustainable development.
- **Education:** For excellence in **Teaching, Educational Leadership, Curriculum Development, Academic Research, Mentorship, and Advocacy for Access to Learning**, shaping minds and empowering future generations.
- **Sports and Recreation:** For exceptional contributions to **Competitive Sports and Recreational Activities**, promoting teamwork, discipline, and national pride.
- **Innovation and Design:** For pioneering work in **Architecture, Invention, Industrial Design, Fashion, and Graphic Design**, shaping environments and enhancing user experiences through creative solutions.
- **Defense and Security:** For honorable service in **Military, Law Enforcement, Cybersecurity, and Emergency Services**, ensuring the safety, sovereignty, and resilience of the nation.
- **Transportation:** For advancements and leadership in **Aviation, Maritime, and Land Transport**, enhancing connectivity and mobility.

Each category highlights the multifaceted nature of Nigerian excellence, ensuring that a wide range of achievements is celebrated.

Notable Inductees

The NBR Hall of Fame has honored a distinguished roster of Nigerians whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the nation and the world at large. Below is a selection of notable inductees from previous years:

- **Prof. Wole Soyinka** (Arts and Culture): Nobel laureate and literary giant, celebrated for works like *Death and the King's Horseman* and *Ake: The Years of Childhood*. His contributions to global literature have elevated Nigeria's cultural standing.
- **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** (Economics and Leadership): First female Director-General of the World Trade Organization and former Nigerian Finance Minister, recognized for her transformative economic policies and global leadership.
- **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** (Arts and Culture): Award-winning author of *Half of a Yellow Sun* and *Americanah*, celebrated for her storytelling and advocacy for gender equality.
- **Dr. Stella Adadevoh** (Health and Well-being): Heroic physician who played a pivotal role in containing the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Nigeria, saving countless lives through her sacrifice.
- **Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin** (Community and Social Services): Fearless advocate for democracy and women's rights, recognized for her tireless efforts to promote justice and equality.
- **Aliko Dangote** (Business and Economics): Founder of the Dangote Group, Africa's largest conglomerate, honored for his journey from a \$3,000 loan to building a \$23.9 billion empire, making him the world's richest Black person.
- **Mike Adenuga** (Business and Economics): Founder of Globacom, recognized for revolutionizing Nigeria's telecommunications industry and building a \$6.8 billion fortune from humble beginnings as a taxi driver.
- **Abdulsamad Rabiu** (Business and Economics): Founder of BUA Group, celebrated for his contributions to Nigeria's industrial sector, particularly in cement and sugar, with a \$5.1 billion legacy.
- **Femi Otedola** (Business and Economics): Recognized for his resilience in the energy sector with Geregu Power, rebounding from setbacks to achieve a \$1.7 billion net worth.
- **Tope Awotona** (Science and Technology): Founder of Calendly, a global tech giant, honored for overcoming personal tragedy to build a \$1.4 billion tech

empire.

- **Adebayo Ogunlesi** (Business and Industry): Lauded for his leadership of Global Infrastructure Partners, rising from Ondo State to a \$1.3 billion fortune on Wall Street.
- **Mama Janet Ekundayo** (Community and Social Services): Inducted for her lifelong dedication to community service and philanthropy, leaving a lasting impact on Nigerian society.
- **Oba Adedotun Gbadebo** (Leadership and Government): Recognized for his exemplary leadership as a traditional ruler, fostering cultural preservation and community development.
- **Dr. Muiz Adewale** (Education): Honored for his contributions to educational reform and innovation in Nigeria.
- **Dr. Godwin Umontuen** (Education): Founder of a leading school of nursing science, inducted for advancing healthcare education in Nigeria.
- **Dr. Alex Otti** (Leadership and Government): Governor of Abia State, nominated for the Class of 2025 for his transformative governance and economic reforms.
- **Chief Olusegun Obasanjo** (Leadership and Government): Former President of Nigeria, recognized for his pivotal role in stabilizing Nigeria's democracy and fostering economic reforms during his tenure, as well as his continued influence as a statesman in African and global affairs.
- **Allen Onyema** (Business and Economics): Founder of Air Peace, honored for revolutionizing Nigeria's aviation industry and promoting national connectivity, demonstrating resilience and innovation in building one of Africa's leading airlines.
- **Folunsho Alakija** (Business and Economics): Celebrated for her trailblazing success as a businesswoman and philanthropist, notably through Famfa Oil, with a legacy of empowering women and communities, and a fortune that ranks her among Africa's wealthiest.
- **Dr. Goodluck Ebere Jonathan** (Leadership and Government): Former President of Nigeria, inducted for his contributions to democratic governance and peacebuilding, particularly his role in promoting electoral integrity and regional stability in West Africa.
- **Amina J. Mohammed** (Leadership and Government, Community and Social Services): Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, recognized for her global advocacy for sustainable development, gender equality, and education, elevating Nigeria's profile in international diplomacy.

- **Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar** (Leadership and Government): Sultan of Sokoto, honored for his exemplary leadership in promoting interfaith harmony, cultural preservation, and social cohesion as a traditional and spiritual leader in Nigeria.
- **Pastor W.F. Kumuyi** (Spirituality and Religion): Founder of Deeper Christian Life Ministry, celebrated for his spiritual leadership and contributions to education and community development through his ministry's global outreach.
- **Pastor Enoch Adeboye** (Spirituality and Religion): General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, inducted for his transformative spiritual leadership, fostering moral values, and driving philanthropy through educational and healthcare initiatives.

These inductees represent the diversity of Nigerian excellence, from literary pioneers to business tycoons, health heroes, and social advocates and the list keeps increasing every year.

Induction Ceremonies

The NBR Hall of Fame induction ceremonies are grand celebrations of Nigerian achievements, organized by the NBR supreme council. The events feature:

- **Tributes and Performances:** Musical performances, spoken word, and video tributes highlighting the inductees' contributions.
- **Keynote Addresses:** Speeches by prominent figures in Nigerian society, emphasizing the importance of legacy and excellence.
- **Citation:** Citations of the inductee are publicly read from the prestigious Nigerian Books of Record to convince the audience that the inductee has all it takes to become the new NBR Hall of Famer
- **Awards Presentation:** Inductees or their representatives receive a custom-designed plaque and a place in the NBR Hall of Fame archives and museum.
- **Public Engagement:** The ceremonies are broadcasted live on national television and streamed online, allowing Nigerians worldwide to participate.

Impact and Legacy

The NBR Hall of Fame has had a profound impact on Nigerian society by:

- **Promoting National Unity:** By celebrating achievements across ethnic, religious, and regional lines, the NBR fosters a sense of shared pride.

- **Inspiring Youth:** The stories of inductees motivate young Nigerians to pursue careers in diverse fields, exploring without limits.
- **Preserving History:** The NBR archives serve as a permanent record of Nigeria's greatest achievements, accessible to researchers, students, and the public.

The Hall of Fame also partners with educational institutions to develop programs that teach students about the contributions of inductees, ensuring their legacies inspire future generations.

The Relevance of NBR Hall of Fame

The NBR Hall of Fame is a prestigious platform that honors outstanding Nigerians across a wide range of fields—not limited to broadcasting. Rooted in Nigeria's cultural and historical heritage, it highlights individuals whose work has made a lasting impact on society.

Expanding beyond traditional categories, the Hall of Fame recognizes excellence in science, activism, technology, the arts, and more—reflecting the full spectrum of Nigeria's contributions to the world.

The NBR Hall of Fame Museum offers public access to immersive exhibitions, showcasing personal artifacts, achievements, and stories of each inductee. With a strong focus on innovation and cultural relevance, the Hall of Fame sets a new standard for celebrating national excellence and legacy.

NBR Hall of Fame Initiatives

The NBR Hall of Fame is dedicated to celebrating Nigeria's most exceptional individuals while fostering national pride, inspiring future generations, and reshaping Nigeria's global narrative. Through a series of thoughtfully designed initiatives, the NBR amplifies the legacies of its inductees and promotes a culture of excellence, innovation, and positive representation. Below is an expanded overview of the NBR Hall of Fame's key initiatives:

1. NBR Hall of Fame Digital Museum

The NBR Hall of Fame Digital Museum stands as a vibrant tribute to extraordinary Nigerians recognized as NBR Hall of Famers. Each year, the museum welcomes a new class of inductees, whose remarkable achievements in diverse fields are celebrated. The museum offers dynamic, state-of-the-art exhibits and immersive, interactive experiences designed to captivate visitors of all ages. These displays not only highlight the inductees' contributions but also ignite curiosity and inspire innovation, encouraging visitors to pursue excellence in their own endeavors. The museum serves as a cultural landmark, preserving Nigeria's legacy of greatness and providing a space where history, innovation, and aspiration converge.

2. Educational Outreach

The NBR is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of Nigerian leaders through robust educational outreach programs. These initiatives include mentorship boot camps tailored for young Nigerians, focusing on talent development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship. The boot camps pair participants with accomplished mentors, including NBR Hall of Famers, to provide guidance, practical skills, and inspiration. Additionally, the NBR collaborates with educational institutions to integrate the stories and achievements of Hall of Fame inductees into school curricula across Nigeria. This program aims to foster a culture of excellence, resilience, and ambition among students, encouraging them to draw inspiration from Nigeria's finest role models. By embedding these narratives in education, the NBR seeks to instill pride and purpose in young Nigerians, equipping them to contribute meaningfully to society.

3. Global Recognition through the "I'm Proudly Nigerian" Conference

To elevate Nigeria's image on the world stage, the NBR organizes the annual "I'm Proudly Nigerian" Conference, a transformative two-day event held on different continents each year. Themed "I'm Proudly Nigerian," this Global Image Revolution conference is a strategic platform to counter misinformation and negative stereotypes about Nigeria. It showcases the nation's significant contributions to humanity in areas such as innovation, culture, governance, and philanthropy. The conference evaluates Nigeria's progress in addressing its negative international perception, while also developing forward-looking strategies to enhance its global reputation.

Hosted abroad, the event serves as a powerful stage to present the authentic identity of Nigerians and their country to an international audience. It features NBR Hall of Fame inductees, whose stories of excellence inspire attendees, alongside vibrant displays of Nigerian music, cinema, and art exhibitions that highlight the nation's cultural richness. Symposiums and keynote lectures by prominent Nigerians and global thought leaders share success stories, fostering a sense of pride in Nigerian identity and encouraging others worldwide to appreciate Nigeria's contributions. By creating a global dialogue, the conference strengthens Nigeria's soft power and builds bridges of understanding between Nigeria and the international community.

4. Digital Platform

Recognizing the transformative power of technology, the NBR has launched a virtual Hall of Fame platform to make the stories and legacies of its inductees accessible worldwide. This dynamic digital hub features a rich archive of inspiring narratives, multimedia exhibits, and historical content that celebrate the achievements of Nigeria's most distinguished figures.

Designed for both the Nigerian diaspora and global audiences, the platform offers immersive experiences such as virtual tours, exclusive video interviews, and downloadable resources that educate, engage, and inspire. By embracing digital innovation, the NBR ensures that the legacies of its Hall of Famers remain alive, relevant, and within reach, fostering pride, connection, and admiration for Nigerian excellence around the world.

5. Community Engagement and Empowerment Programs

Alongside its core initiatives, the NBR advances grassroots impact through community engagement and empowerment programs—ranging from workshops and seminars to public events that share the stories of Hall of Famers with local communities across Nigeria. By working with local organizations, it facilitates talent discovery programs that identify and nurture emerging leaders in underserved areas, offering resources, training, and networking opportunities to help individuals reach their full potential.

These community-focused efforts extend to annual award ceremonies and festivals that not only honor inductees but also invite the public to take part in celebrating Nigerian excellence. In doing so, the NBR strengthens communal ties, inspires collective pride, and deepens its commitment to positive change at the grassroots level.

6. International Collaborations and Partnerships

The NBR actively pursues partnerships with international organizations, cultural institutions, and academic bodies to amplify its global impact. These collaborations enable knowledge exchange, co-hosted events, and joint initiatives that spotlight Nigerian innovation and leadership. One example includes working with global universities and research institutions to establish scholarship programs in honor of Hall of Famers, helping young Nigerians access world-class education. Through participation in international cultural festivals, the NBR also showcases Nigerian art, music, and innovation to global audiences. These partnerships enhance Nigeria's global visibility, promote cross-cultural dialogue, and reinforce the nation's reputation as a center of talent and creativity.

7. Research and Documentation of Nigerian Excellence

The NBR is dedicated to preserving and documenting Nigeria's legacy of excellence through rigorous research and archival efforts. The organization maintains a comprehensive database of Nigerian achievements, contributions, and milestones, ensuring that the stories of both past and present inductees are meticulously recorded. This initiative includes publishing books, documentaries, and white papers that chronicle Nigeria's impact on the global stage. By creating a robust archive, the NBR provides a valuable resource for researchers, historians, and policymakers, while also ensuring that future generations have access to a rich repository of Nigerian success stories. This effort underscores the NBR's commitment to safeguarding Nigeria's heritage and promoting its contributions to humanity.

Through these multifaceted initiatives, the NBR Hall of Fame continues to honor Nigeria's finest, inspire its youth, and reshape the nation's global narrative. By combining cultural celebration, education, digital innovation, community engagement, and international collaboration, the NBR creates a lasting impact that resonates both within Nigeria and across the world.

See Also

- Nigerian Books of Record

- Radio Hall of Fame
- National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- National Inventors Hall of Fame

External Links

- Official Nigerian Books of Record Website
- NBR Hall of Fame Nomination Guidelines
- 2025 Induction Ceremony Information

References